

# **Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments**

Boulder County      City and County of Broomfield      Jefferson County  
City of Arvada      City of Boulder      City of Westminster      Town of Superior

## **Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments Board Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 4, 2002**

**8:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Mt. Evans Room in the Terminal Building  
Jefferson County Airport, Broomfield**

**Board members in attendance:** Hank Stovall (Director, Broomfield), Mike Bartleson (Alternate, Broomfield), Sam Dixon (Director, Westminster), Ron Hellbusch (Alternate, Westminster), Lorraine Anderson (Director, Arvada), Ken Fellman (Alternate, Arvada), Clark Johnson (Alternate, Arvada), Lisa Morzel (Director, City of Boulder), Mike Weil (Alternate, City of Boulder), Paul Danish (Director, Boulder County), Jane Uitti (Alternate, Boulder County), Michelle Lawrence (Director, Jefferson County), Nanette Neelan (Alternate, Jefferson County), Karen Imbierowicz (Director, Superior).

**Coalition staff members and consultants in attendance:** David Abelson (Executive Director), Kimberly Chleboun (Program Manager), Melissa Anderson (Technical Program Manager), Barbara Vander Wall (Seter & Vander Wall, P.C.).

**Members of the Public:** John Corsi (Kaiser-Hill), Dave Shelton (Kaiser-Hill), Dyan Foss (Kaiser-Hill), Jeff Stevens (Kaiser-Hill), Dennis Ferrera (Kaiser-Hill), Bob Nininger (Kaiser-Hill), Lane Butler (Kaiser-Hill), Marla Broussard (Kaiser-Hill), Susan Serreze (Kaiser-Hill), Anna Martinez (DOE), Joe Legare (DOE), John Rampe (DOE), Jeremy Karpatkin (DOE), Rick DiSalvo (DOE), Glenn Doyle (DOE), Dean Rundle (USFWS), Laurie Shannon (USFWS), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), Kathleen Rutherford (CDPHE), Steve Tarlton (CDPHE), Tim Rehder (EPA), Jerry Henderson (RFCAB), Al Nelson (City of Westminster), Bob Nelson (City of Golden), Doug Young (Congressman Udall), Kristi Pollard (Senator Allard), Matt Knoedler (Governor Owens), Gail Bange (Wackenhut), Dan Chesshir (RFSOIU Local #1), Filiberto Cruz (RFSOIU Local #1), Berny Morson (Rocky Mountain News).

### **Convene/Agenda Review**

Chairman Danish called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m. A new agenda was distributed with the addition of the Round Robin

### **Business Items**

- 1. Appoint Coalition Officers-** In accordance with the procedures for selection of officers of the Board, Sam Dixon was appointed as the new Chairman of the Board, Lorraine Anderson was appointed Vice Chairman, and Karen Imbierowicz was selected by drawing to fill the position of Secretary/Treasurer. The positions became effective immediately. Barb Vander Wall explained that in the IGA and the bylaws the parties are to designate their directors and alternate directors each year. Barb said although the Coalition does not have its own enabling legislation it is a public entity which therefore requires that its directors execute an oath of office, which she then handed out and asked to be returned to her by the

end of the meeting. Lisa Morzel motioned to approve the new officers. Michelle Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

2. **Motion to Approve Consent Agenda** – Lisa Morzel motioned to approve the consent agenda. Paul Danish seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.
3. **Executive Director's Report** - David Abelson advised the Board that DOE and Xcel had reached an agreement on the easement, and he provided copies of the agreement. Second, he said he and Kimberly Chleboun had met with Dean Rundle (USFWS) regarding the planning process for the comprehensive conservation plan. Dean will be meeting with each government individually and will also meet with the Board, as well as the State and DOE, at the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss this planning process. David said it is a standard public involvement process which will most likely require some changes to fit Rocky Flats' unique situation. Kimberly had distributed information on the process to local government staff at the last staff meeting. David also said he had added information to the lobby packet about involving the Coalition in the MOU discussions, and he had made plans for the Coalition to discuss this with Dan Ash (USFWS), Senator Allard, and Rep. Udall while in Washington, D.C. Dean has agreed to keep David apprised of USFWS and DOE funding discussions. Third, David informed the Board of the results from the Community Reuse Organization (CRO) directors conference he attended. He explained the Office of Worker and Community Transition (OWCT) is looking to revise how money is allocated to different CROs. If the final plan continues along the current path then it will benefit the Coalition by providing for minimum funding levels for all CROs in the form of a block grant, and by creating a strategic focus that will more directly cover the Coalition. Funding above the minimum level would be a competitive process. Fourth, David said he and Kimberly would be leaving for a long-term stewardship conference on risk analysis and management later that day.

### **Public Comment**

Doug Young brought copies of the refuge bill decision matrix which David had previously forwarded to the Board. Matt Knoedler from Governor Owens' office introduced himself as John Swartout's replacement and said he looks forward to working with the Board on Rocky Flats issues.

Dan Chesshir raised the issue of a recent Dateline story which reported vulnerabilities in security at DOE sites, including Rocky Flats. He noted the Board had raised issues in the past with security for WIPP shipments and asked if this report had raised new security concerns for them. Dan added there have been notable changes in security posture since September 11<sup>th</sup>, and he will be going to headquarters later in the month to discuss security issues around the weapons complex. David Abelson responded there had been security issues raised 1995 through 1998, but the Site is very different now with different materials onsite and a different Protected Area. He said although it is virtually impossible to know the status of security, every step toward closure reduces the security risk and this is the strongest argument to get the materials shipped offsite. Hank Stovall asked if the security protocol for transporting the TRUPACT II containers is classified. Steve Gunderson said the trucks are tracked by satellite and inspected approximately every 100 miles. He said he could put together some information on this for the Board. After a short discussion, the Board agreed it had no current security issues to raise.

### **Round Robin**

**Jefferson County** - Michelle Lawrence presented Broomfield with their city flag which originally

hung in the Jefferson County offices. Broomfield is now the City and County of Broomfield.

**Arvada** - Ken Fellman said City of Arvada officials were in Washington, D.C. last week and met with Gale Norton and Brian Wademan, her Chief of Staff. They discussed the Rocky Flats refuge and how the local governments could best help DOI with funding and planning processes. He said he was encouraged by their conversation, and said DOI is aware the locals expect to be very involved. Secretary Norton advised them Kit Kimball, intergovernmental affairs, would be the contact person for all issues, and Ken suggested inviting Kit to a Board meeting for introductions.

Lorraine Anderson said she is concerned the Coalition is not taking its role as a CRO seriously, and the Coalition should be working to replace lost jobs. She stated the Coalition must clarify and fulfill the role for which it is receiving federal money. David said the Coalition has reviewed this issue several times and each time it comes back to each government helping to facilitate communication between Rocky Flats and local businesses. He said the Coalition was never meant to be a CRO for economic redevelopment like RFLII and the new director of the OWCT realizes this. David referred to his previous statements about changes in CRO funding and explained CRO language is being changed to be more inclusive of the type of role the Coalition fills. He stated the Coalition is currently meeting its obligations and complying with the OWCT's directions, and noted that funding would not have recently been approved if this were not the case. Lorraine asked for more information on how the Coalition is meeting these obligations. David agreed to provide an update at the next meeting.

**Westminster** - Ron Hellbusch suggested David and the Coalition could help coordinate economic development staff from the local governments. Sam Dixon asked John Corsi (Kaiser-Hill) about the worker population and placement. John replied the Site population will remain steady, at about 5000, until 2004, although small layoffs will be typical over the next couple of years. Kaiser-Hill has ongoing career assistance programs to help Site workers with job placement, new business startups, and new career training.

**Boulder County** - Paul Danish asked if the DOE budget had been released yet. David said it would be released today, and he has heard Rocky Flats and its receiver sites will be receiving full funding to support a 2006 closure.

### **Guard Tower Demolition Report Back**

Jeff Stevens (Kaiser-Hill) presented the findings, including a video, from the Guard Tower demolitions which took place November 10, 2001. He described lessons learned from the seismograph results, security procedures, dust control, and utilities protection.

Jeff said a project-specific security plan was prepared for the job, which addressed getting the explosives onsite and controlling them while they were onsite. Development and approval of the plan proved to be more difficult than anticipated, and accounted for approximately 80% of the time spent on this project. However, this process did create a template for future security plans. The implementation was smooth, the explosives were onsite in 15 minutes, and exclusion zones were implemented as required. Jeff noted they will need better communication with the project team in future projects to ensure they adhere to the exclusion requirements.

Jeff then described the seismograph results, which revealed the highest peak particle velocity was 1.37 inches per second (ips), compared to a standard of 10 ips or greater. This will set the baseline for future demolition. They also tested a dust control system which sprayed 10,000 gallons of

water per minute from a fire hose. Jeff said the system worked as anticipated and minimized the dust but did not affect the smoke resulting from the detonation. He noted there was one tower they were spraying, but the wind shifted and blew the spray the wrong way. Nonetheless, air monitors showed no difference between this demolition using explosives and the Building 111 demolition which was done with excavators with attachments. He said the main differences between the two demolition methods is time (seconds versus months) and worker safety (removing the worker from the hazard). When questioned about a previously proposed fogging system, Jeff explained they thought the system they used would work better because it could deliver more water at a faster rate.

Jeff also described damage to an underground utility during the demolition. He said all above ground utilities were identified to the subcontractor but the below ground utilities were not. Thus, a below grade junction box was damaged during the demolition of tower 901 either when the tower hit the ground, or when the loader came in to pull back the geotextile. Jeff said all utilities will be identified and locked out in the immediate vicinity of future demolitions. The floor was then opened for questions.

Liza Morzel asked how far below grade was the junction box, and Jeff replied 30 feet. Paul Danish said if they had problems with underground utilities they should pay very special attention to process lines under large buildings. Lisa and Karen Imbierowicz raised several questions about the dust suppression method and monitoring results. Jeff explained the explosives demolition consists of 30-40 steps, and when the wind shifted and blew the spray away from the second tower they were in the final countdown, so they went ahead with the detonation. He emphasized this project was for demonstration and learning, and they will revisit this issue in the future. In response to air monitoring questions, Jeff said the monitors use air filters to test for nuisance dust, PM<sub>10</sub>, and silica. The monitors at the Site boundaries detected nothing, and monitors approximately 100 yards from the towers received very little even though the wind was blowing toward them.

Hank Stovall asked if there had been a cost savings by using explosives. Jeff responded it was a wash, and the use of explosives may have even been slightly more costly due to the extra work required since it was the first project of its kind onsite. Hank said for a larger demolition they should consider keeping the use of explosives minimal and confined within the buildings. Jeff said they are considering several techniques, some which may include use of explosives. One technique uses explosives to fracture concrete in thick walls to make it easier to separate the concrete from the rebar. Fil Cruz (RFSOIU Local #1) said the guard's union is totally against the use of explosives at Rocky Flats, and raised the issues of inefficient dust suppression and dirty buildings. Jeff said a building must meet free release criteria prior to any type of demolition. Paul Danish said he didn't think they could extrapolate results from the guard towers and apply them to plutonium buildings, and he believes using explosives would be imprudent. Karen asked if using explosives is safer for workers, why are they opposed to them. Fil said he could not speak for the steelworkers or the building and trades workers, but the guards are concerned about using explosives on buildings. Lorraine Anderson said there should not be a tradeoff between worker safety and long-term safety, and reiterated the fact that a building can only be demolished after it meets free release criteria.

### **Review Washington, D.C. Lobby Materials**

David Abelson listed the meetings he has confirmed for the lobbying trip thus far, and described the lobbying packets drafted for meetings with congressional and DOE representatives. The

congressional packets are geared toward maintaining pressure for funding for cleanup, post-closure management, and the OWCT. David said in drafting the DOE packet he acknowledged that Jessie Roberson is already aware of Coalition concerns, so he tried to focus on how the Coalition can help Rocky Flats achieve success and be a part of the MOU discussions. He stated it isn't clear yet whether the MOU will be negotiated onsite or at headquarters. He also explained important aspects of the MOU include internal site boundaries, and management of residual contamination and the ponds. David asked the Board for their suggested changes.

Ken Fellman proposed the following changes to the congressional packet:

- o Page 7 - add a bullet point regarding ensuring local input;
- o Page 8 - add a separate bullet point for funding for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan process and refuge management thereafter.

He also recommended the following changes for the DOE packet:

- o Page 2 - the third bullet point should be revised to state "DOE *and* USFWS working with the Coalition...";
- o Page 7 - the second bullet point should be revised similarly to state "DOE *and* USFWS must include the Coalition...".

Jeremy Karpatkin (DOE) said the Coalition presentation addressing waste shipment offsite may have a different level of urgency, depending on the situation at the time of the Coalition visit. David said this is why he kept the information in the packet very general and will adjust their presentation as the situation presents itself.

At 9:45 a.m. Lisa Morzel motioned to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing legal issues and receiving legal advice on such issues, as authorized under Section 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S. Lorraine Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Sam Dixon at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Chleboun, Program Manager

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